

Remarks

Currently, claims 13, 15-20, 22-26, 28-33, and 35-37 remain pending in the present application. Claims 13, 16, 17, 20, 22-24, 26, 29, 30, 33, and 35-37 are being examined according to the species election, including independent claims 13 and 26. For example, independent claim 13 is directed to an absorbent garment comprising a liner, an outer cover, an absorbent structure, and an adhesive. The absorbent structure is positioned between the liner and the outer cover. The adhesive is positioned between at least two of the liner, the outer cover, and the absorbent structure. The adhesive is applied at least partly according to a swirl-like pattern. The swirl-like pattern comprises a plurality of loops having a size, such that the size of the loops change as a function of distance. The adhesive pattern changes as a function of distance and according to at least one of pattern breadth or adhesive dose in weight per area along the distance. The adhesive dose of the adhesive pattern changes as a function of distance such that the weight per unit area of adhesive applied varies by at least 20% by weight.

As shown above, the limitations of previously pending dependent claims 14 and 27 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims.

The Office Action rejected previously pending claims 14 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action states that the "claims contains (sic) subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention." However, Applicants respectfully disagree. For instance, the present application specifically states that "it should be understood that aspects of the various embodiments [described in the present application] may be interchanged both in whole or in part." Pg. 22, lines 4-5.

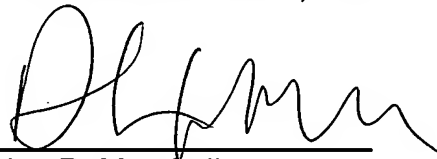
Additionally, independent claims 13 and 26, as originally filed, required that (1) the adhesive is applied at least partly according to a swirl-like pattern with the adhesive pattern changing as a function of distance, and (2) the adhesive pattern changes according to at least one of (a) pattern breadth or (b) adhesive dose in weight per area along the direction. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification

reasonably conveys to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, that the present inventors had possession of the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn, and amended independent claims 13 and 26 be allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance. However, should Examiner Craig have any further questions or concerns after consideration of this response, she is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at her convenience.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,
DORITY & MANNING, P.A.



Alan R. Marshall
Registration No. 56,405

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Date

P.O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 271-1592
(864) 233-7342